

Waynes

Free!

January-February 2011

Inside: Much To-Do About St. John's Pride!

Catherine Meade: Passion for Excellence



Wayves

Catherine Meade's Excellent Passion



Gold at the 2006 Outgames in Montreal

By Randall Perry

Catherine Meade has an impressive resume and an equally impressive way of making you feel at home. I first met her during her federal election campaign when she swung by the Wayves booth during the 2007 Word on the Street book and magazine festival. A few years later I'm sitting at her dining room table, where she warmly greeted me inside from a late-November evening chill. I've come to talk sports, which ultimately is what the conversation revolves around, but in the end we've touched on so many subjects—music, travel, current events and more, as well as sports—I'll end up filing away more of the interview than I eventually use.

As my late grandmother might say, she's got passion, that one.

Born in Truro, raised in Clark's Harbour, then Toronto, among Catherine's first influences was her

father's ministry. She recalls fondly during points in her childhood her own desire to follow in his footsteps, setting up the laundry hamper as a pulpit and practice-preaching to the stuffed animals. By the time high school came along, though, the Catherine had been firmly bitten by the sport bug and hence pursued a new dream of becoming a physical education teacher. She attended McMaster University and graduated in May, 1988 with a Bachelor of Physical Education degree.

"By the time I got to [graduate] school, I learned there was a whole other world called 'sport administration' where you could actually combine sport with the leadership bit that I had been involved in most of my life," she states. "Bring those together and that was it—that became my area of specialization." She attended the University of Alberta to study Sport Administration and Management,

then off to the University of Ottawa, where she graduated with her law degree in 2002.

Sport has been a recurring thread in Catherine's life from her earliest days, a theme that underlies and binds her activities, interests and opinions. She frequently melds her vacation travels with major sporting events, either as a spectator, volunteer or competitor. "When I was a kid, any sport where speed and agility were of value, I was there," she says.

Catherine credits the 1976 Summer Olympics, held in Montreal, as a significant: "I had Olympic everything," she chuckles. "I had this medallion that had the maple leaf and five rings that I wore all the time—ALL the time." She remembers being in the city during the games that summer and fondly recalls the autograph book she would take with her on visits to the venues. It was

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Much To Do About St. John's Pride

by Christian Corbet

Over the many years I've attended Pride celebrations across our fine nation and duly experienced a broad cross-section of events I've found it exhilarating to see how varying demographics envision, create and ultimately celebrate Pride. These experiences have helped me realize and appreciate those Pride organizers who take on the arduous task of assembling one of the most publicly profiled events of the year, not just within Canada but worldwide. They do so not for the whimsy or for the pure fun of it but for the passion of doing it for the LGBTQA community.

Organizers of Pride events also dip their hands into the social waters where they are working for the community in general, where they represent the LGBTQA community in a responsible and genuine manner raising important issues and profiling informative topics to the public. This responsibility is no easy feat as controversial issues such as the blood donation policy, bullying, equality and more are brought to the open forum. From this kind of advocacy debates will no doubt ensue—a good thing, considering change happens when people come together to share ideas.

Since I moved to Newfoundland and Labrador three years ago I have heard discussions about past Pride events in St. John's and I have to admit that, unfortunately, I haven't yet attended their annual Pride festival. However concerns about its loosely based structure as an informal group

(non-legal entity), how it was being operated and how it's just "simply not working" were at the forefront of the discussions. Some people voiced their concerns quietly while others were very boisterous. I absorbed all this and retained it, and wondered what was really happening. As a founder and chairperson for Corner Brook Pride Inc. these rumours made me seriously consider what was taking place on the east coast of Newfoundland.

To begin with, I found out that the St. John's Pride group in question was an informal group of coordinators headed by one chairperson, not registered with the province as a non-profit business. It consisted of

I found out that the St. John's Pride group in question was an informal group of coordinators headed by one chairperson...

a group of about four people who had come together to promote the LGBTQA community. I use the past tense for this group because several reliable sources have advised me that they have disbanded as a functioning group using the name "St. John's Pride." However, there is still a website indicating they exist. Legally, the name "St. John's Pride" now belongs to another provincially registered non-profit organization that has been formed whose founders were not part of the first Pride group. As well, the initial St. John's Pride group was removed by Facebook due to infringement on use of said legal name. Susanne Gulliver Conway,

the former chairperson of the now apparently defunct group, is said to be a member of the straight community. I found this both interesting and exciting simply because allies are a very important part of our progress toward inclusion and acceptance.

So with this information I made an initial request to interview Ms. Gulliver Conway through one of her directors. I chose to go this route as it seemed that she had a liaison acting on her behalf, with whom I made contact since he was asking questions like, "How does Corner Brook Pride work without fighting?" After I made my first interview request I found on the provincial government website that Ms. Gulliver Conway had reserved a name for a business under the title "LGBTQA Association Newfoundland Labrador Inc." This further piqued my interest and I wrote two more e-mails, requesting an interview with Ms. Gulliver Conway. The response I received was, "Thanks for your interest, unfortunately there is no organization as of yet, I just reserved a name. There's nothing for an article right now but I'll keep you posted."

I wondered why a formal name reservation would be submitted for a provincially-registered business if there was nothing substantial that could be written into an article. Surely there must be an initial business concept/plan. In a third follow-up request regarding Ms. Gulliver Conway's operations with past Pride events, she replied and asked, "For which publication are you writing the article?" I answered that Way-



St. John's 2010 Pride Parade. Photos by Jennifer McCreath, St. John's Pride Inc.

ves and magazine was the media outlet, and after that I received no further response.

During this time I was also making requests to interview some of the other former Pride organizers and coordinators. Jerry Arseneault, who has been involved with St. John's Pride

as a volunteer since 2008 and an organizer since 2009 and has been "... most involved in St. John's Pride '09 and '10. My biggest accomplishment was organizing the bonfire in 2010." Many people lauded the bonfire! He

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March Deadline: Friday, Feb. 4 (first Friday of every month!) submissions@wayves.ca • Wayves Online: www.wayves.ca • Join us on Facebook: Wayves Magazine

Atlantic News

Brendan Burke (1988 – 2010)

Brendan led the way out of hockey's closet, where nobody ever admits to being gay.



The CBC's Fifth Estate broadcast "The Legacy of Brendan Burke" on November 26 with this introduction: "Brendan Burke was a remarkable young man. Growing up in a hockey family, with a sports icon as a father, he was probably destined to make his mark in hockey. And he did, but in a way few could have predicted. He decided to tell the world he was gay—a courageous move in a sport where no player, current or former, has ever come out. Brendan Burke's life was tragically cut short, but his legacy lives on."

Watch the complete broadcast now at www.cbc.ca/fifth.

LGBT Gambling Study

To date, little research has been conducted on gambling habits and attitudes within Nova Scotia's Rainbow Community. Thanks to a grant from the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation (NSGF), OUT!Alive will work towards a better understanding of the gambling behaviours within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in Nova Scotia.

OUT!Alive is an alliance of citizens concerned about drug, alcohol, tobacco, and gambling issues within the Rainbow Community. The alliance will use the \$10,000.00 NSGF grant to conduct online and in-person surveys at various Pride events in 2011.

"Understanding the needs and experiences of those within the community is a crucial step towards ensuring adequate treatment and support options are available," says Patrick Daigle, clinical therapist and volunteer with OUT!Alive. The report will be available to the public in late 2011.

Each year the NSGF awards grants to community organizations to support projects aimed at reducing or learning more about gambling harms in Nova Scotia. The grant to OUT!Alive is one of five Community Project grants the NSGF awarded in 2010-2011, totalling \$124,591.00.

The Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation is a not-for-profit, arm's-length government organization that encourages and supports an independent response to problem gambling in Nova Scotia. This is accomplished, in part, through funding to community groups and researchers to help address problem gambling.

Wayves Goes "Strait"

The Eastern County Regional Library system has had numerous distribution points for Wayves for at least a year. The following public libraries are places where the copies can be picked up: Canso Library • Cyril Ward Memorial Library (Guysborough) • Sherbrooke Library • Mulgrave Library • Port Hawkesbury Library • Petit de Grat Library • Drs. Coady & Tompkins Memorial Library (Margaree Forks.)



Loose Ends, Tight Curling

Halifax's GLBT community curling league, Loose Ends, together with its supporting straight allies, has now gone through half of its second season and the group has swelled to an amazing 80 members. This group started small in 2006, with eight gays and lesbians creating two teams, playing in the Mayflower Curling Club's Friday night recreation league. But it was during the 2009-2010 season where the league started with 48 curlers (12 teams) taking six sheets of ice for regular recreational curling.

Spectators are always welcome to come watch games in the licensed

lounge at the Mayflower Curling Club, located at 3000 Monaghan Drive, behind the Pizza Hut on Young St. in Halifax's North End. The complete season schedule is available at www.looseends.ca/schedule.html. Games take place both at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The next annual East Coast "Pink Broom" will be held on March 12, 2011. It will be the third year for the event, adopted from the Vancouver's PAC-RIM GLBT curling league. The Pink Broom is a social afternoon/evening event, with curling and a dance party at the Mayflower Curling Club. And for those who want to try

the sport for the first time, there will be lessons before the games begin. The funspiel helps raise money so that a few groups of curlers can represent Halifax in the sixth annual Canadian Gay Curling Championships tournament in Ottawa from March 24 – 27, 2011.

PEI Eucharists

The NSPEI Chapter of Integrity Canada will hold monthly Eucharists on January 16 and February 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Martello St.

The Rev. Randy Townsend will preside and Rev. Canon Rod Gillis will be homilist at the January gathering, and Rev. Cathy Simpson will preside and Rev. Kees Zwanenburg will be homilist in February. All friends of the GLBT community are welcomed. Refreshments and conversation following. Contact nspeiintegrity@gmail.com.

Sexual Congress in Yarmouth

By Angus Campbell
The Yarmouth Centre for Sexual Health (YCSH) and the Southwest

Health Public Health Services in partnership with the Nova Scotia Association for Sexual Health (NSASH) held its first Sexual and Reproduction Health conference in Yarmouth on November 17 and 18. Titled "Healthy Sexuality Is..." the conference focussed on a number of issues in keeping with NSASH's mandate of promoting healthy sexuality across the lifespan for all Nova Scotians.

The first day started with the 100-plus participants examining their own values and judgments about sexuality. In the afternoon Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan, Dalhousie School of Health and Human Performance, gave a keynote address about a number of research studies she has been supervising in our region, including a study regarding gender and sexual health.

Thursday began with Dr. Don Langille, Dalhousie School of Epidemiology, presenting findings of his study of adolescent sexual health in Nova Scotia.

Conference delegates then attended three different breakout sessions which included topics of heterosexism in the classroom, GLBTIQ resources, hyper-sexualization, cyber-

Continued next page

Red Tie Affair

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AIDS New Brunswick

by Eugene Campbell

If everything falls into place and goes as planned, it promises to be a very busy next few months for the Fredericton-based AIDS New Brunswick. Between now and next June, the organization will run AIDS NB Red Tie Affair on Saturday, February 26, 2011; and the AIDS NB 25th Anniversary celebrations, planned for June, 2011.

Nick Scott, Executive Director of the local AIDS NB office, located at 65 Brunswick St., Fredericton, in the Victoria Health Centre, said that although not much is being done for the 25th anniversary celebration yet, as it is several months away, he did say that it would coincide with the group's Annual General Meeting, planned for June.

As far as World AIDS Day, coming up on December 1, Scott said, "Every year, we have a breakfast at

Government House. The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Graydon Nicholas, is our Honorary Patron." The invitation-only event invites policy makers to make presentations. "Hopefully, we will get all the Members of the Legislative Assembly to wear red ribbons on that day."

Scott, who has been Executive Director for the past year, said that last year, "We gave out safe-sex kits downtown." He said that they might do the same thing this year. "A couple of our volunteers will be dressed up. One of them will be Captain Condom," he added.

As for the Red Tie Affair goes, the Director said that this is the fourth year for the event. "It began in 2006, and the purpose is to raise funds to pay for the annual People Living with HIV/AIDS forum and gathering." He said that

this year, the Red Tie Affair will take place at the new Fredericton Convention Centre. This, he said, will give people their first chance to check out the newly-constructed building. The event will be held in the Ballroom.

Scott said that this year's event promises to be a lavish affair, "including wine, dinner and dessert." He said that the host for the gathering will be Steve Patterson, a well-known comedian, the host of The Debaters on CBC radio, and a regular on Just for Laughs. He added that Patterson will also be emceeding an anti-poverty dinner in Ontario this year.

Well-known Fredericton rock group, "Pretty in Pink," will be providing the entertainment for the dance which follows the meal. "Tickets for the Red Tie Affair are \$125," said Scott. "That covers everything."

The Director said that currently his office is looking for sponsors,

adding, "We really want to work with a lot of local organisations and companies. The more sponsors we can get, regardless of the value of the sponsorship, the more support we will get. All of this is creating a more supportive environment for people living with HIV/AIDS." He said that anyone wishing to become a sponsor, merely get in touch with redtie@aidnsb.ca. "You can also get additional information on the event here."

Scott said that the NB AIDS office is always looking for volunteers. "We have very few volunteers right now," he said. "We need volunteers. If you're interested in getting involved, contact aidnsb.com, or call us at (506) 459-7518."



Nick Scott. Photo by Eugene Campbell

Atlantic News, Continued

bullying (which includes "sexting" or receiving unsolicited sexually explicit messages/e-mails), caregivers resource guide to culturally competent care, how to make teaching and learning sexual health fun, creating safer spaces for women, mental health and addiction services, and more.

"We are so happy with the way the conference came together, especially with the number of local people who made it a priority to participate, and also the number of men who are getting involved with sexual and reproductive health," said Michele Archibald-Hattie, YCSH Executive Director and NSASH President. "Our local businesses also showed their support and generosity by supplying registration items, door prizes and discount coupons for the delegates."

NSASH hopes to offer "Healthy Sexuality Is..." conferences annually or bi-annually. For further information and resources, please visit www.NSSexualHealth.ca and www.HSHC.ca.

Angus Campbell is the treasurer of NSASH and the Executive Director of the Halifax Sexual Health Centre. He may be reached at ED@HSHC.ca.

Our Cover

Catherine Meade. Photo courtesy of Catherine Meade; design by Cam MacLeod.

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have lots of back issues on line too. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!



Sydney's Got A Brand New Bar

On November 5, 2010 long-time Sydney personality Patt Iannetti declared Club 418, located at 418 George Street, near Prince (in the old Pockets building), open for business.

"I can say for myself that each time I have visited this bar I had a

really fun time," says Blair Whiffen. "The staff is friendly as are the majority of the patrons. Security seems tight."

The dance floor is large and includes an elevated stage area, a dancing pole and large mirrors.

Signage states that the bar is an "alternative" bar, and the Pride flag colors are also displayed. The bar has been filled to capacity a few times on Saturday nights; the patrons are a diverse crowd covering various age groups, many of whom are straight, but gay, bisexual and lesbian folks are certainly welcomed.

"The music has been really good... very current and the sound system is

powerful and very impressive with laser lights and dance fog," says Whiffen.

The bar is open Wednesday to Saturday night from 9:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Jackpot Karaoke is held on Thursdays with Karoke Phil. DJ PTO (Patt the Owner) is in the booth most Saturdays, while DJ Gary B and DJ Swiss have also spun tunes. The cover

is \$5.00 on weekends, and drink prices can run a bit high (for example, \$6.75 for a Rev). The bar has a Facebook group and a website: club418.webstarts.com.

Club 418 will be open until 3:30 a.m. on New Year's Eve with \$10.00 cover, on a first-come, first-in basis.

Photo by Erin Richard

Correction

In the December issue, the article Our Cover: PUMP at Hallowe'en should have read: The Best Drag prize was taken by Paul Ouellette for "Snacks Incorporated" and the Most Risqué by Adrian Thornton for "Cinnamon."

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6: that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax):

Mondays: Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 9: help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 15: help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

We're on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month!

Wayves

Wayves exists to inform Atlantic Canadian lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people of activities in their communities, to promote those activities and to support their aims and objectives.

Wayves is an independent publication, published every month except February by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to Wayves is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. Wayves reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in Wayves are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the *Important Wayves Dates* section of this page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and may be edited for length. Submissions should be emailed in plain text to the address below. Articles and letters may be published with pseudonyms or anonymously, but Wayves must have contact information for the author. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

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Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home; write to submissions@wayves.ca and tell us where we should be!

Bullying In Fredericton

By Eugene Campbell

For 22-year-old first-year St. Thomas University student, Michelle (Mitch) Rayner, bullying has been a way of life. For the better part, it has passed with little, or no, attention. However, an incident back on September 13 has changed things dramatically.

Now in the early stages of becoming a man, Rayner has always known: "I was in grade two or three the first time it happened. I don't know if they knew, or if it was just because I was

different."

The latest bullying incident for Rayner has captured national media attention, even receiving a letter of support from as far away as Ireland. Rayner said he was struck in the face in a woman's washroom on campus. A female student became irate when he entered the washroom. "She asked me to leave," he said, and he went on to explain that he was, in fact, biologically a woman. "She got irate and took a swing at me, called me several

derogatory names, and she just caught me in the lip. So, I staggered out."

There are several things the bullying victim would like to see done. "First, at the very least, I would like to see at least one wheel-chair accessible, gender-neutral washroom in every building on campus. STU has about 15 gender-neutral washrooms across campus, though there are none in Sir James Dunn Hall, where the incident took place.

Rayner said that, currently, those

who are transgendered have no support. "That doesn't surprise me," he said, adding, "I would like to establish a larger LGBTQ community on campus. What we are trying to do is to make it a long-term issue on campus... STU seems to be very receptive to that."

Rayner feels the media attention the matter has been given is important. "I have been contacted by other transgendered students who are giving me their support. There are also

others on campus who I haven't met but I've received their support." He said STU staff wants a statement on what he would like to see on campus, and also testimony from others in the community, as far as being transgendered goes.

For anyone interested in contacting Michelle (Mitch) Rayner to learn more about the matter or to offer support, he can be reached at rayner_mr@live.ca.

St. John's Pride, continued



Susanne Gulliver Conway being interviewed by Carolyn Stokes of NTV News, following Pride flag raising ceremony, at St. John's City Hall.

added, "Pride has always been a very positive time in St. John's. We have had education forums, park picnics, blood drives, drag races, youth bowling." Overall, he seemed very pleased with St. John's Pride's past.

I never received any other responses from other individuals in Ms. Gulliver Conway's Pride group. Julie Crouse, a strong advocate in our community said, quite simply, "It is their right to refuse requests." Wayves looks forward to publishing more information if or when we do hear back.

The thought of an organization being created that could compete with St. John's Pride is concerning because having two Pride groups in the city seems unnecessary. It may also make the public think that the LGBTQ community is divided. The thought of a possible "LGBTQA Association Newfoundland and Labrador Inc." as an umbrella organization trying to direct other non-profit organizations is perplexing. When I interviewed "Janice" (an ally in the community) about this proposed organization her main concern was, "I think they need to

respond to questions from the community about their intentions. They need to clarify what the 'LGBTQA Association Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.' will do. What is their mandate? Where will they operate? Is it a provincial organization as the name implies, or will it focus its work in the St. John's area alone?" These are all valid questions that perhaps have yet to be worked out.

Jason Wells, a gay fourth year BFA student studying at Memorial University who also acts in the capacity as Director of the Queer Straight Alliance, a group registered with the Grenfell Student Union, stated, "People need to be able to communicate so people in our community know what is going on. If there is rift or tension this is definitely not a good thing for the community." Julie Crouse commented, "It's up to that group as to what they name their organization; however it is entirely up to the community and other groups as to whether they are interested in being a part of an umbrella organization. It's shitty, but there's not much you can do in terms of a name, although I have to say it sounds a little shifty, since it's not part of a provincial movement to organize this type of group. I would hope that the group would be involving people from the LGBTQ community in setting up this organization, as well as the work that they are planning to do, in order to better things for the LGBTQ folks in our province."

I first met Jenn McCreath, founder and chairperson of St. John's Pride Inc., in person when she visited Corner Brook Pride in September, 2010. She openly and honestly made her

opinions known about the last Pride in St. John's. It was clear that Jenn, among so many others, wished for a legal organization that would provide transparency and accountability to the community at large. Ms. McCreath, an empowered transgendered person, has been an impassioned voice for the LGBTQ community for several years now and had no qualms about being interviewed. Here were her answers to my questions (which, incidentally, I planned to pose to Ms. Gulliver Conway):

Q. When did you first become involved in Pride in St. John's, and why?

A. After attending 2008 pride events in the city, I was concerned

"If there is rift or tension this is definitely not a good thing for the community."

that there seemed to be a shortage of events and information about the trans community. There also seemed to be a serious lack of trans presence at Pride. I decided to get involved because I wanted to help facilitate and create a safe place for transpeople and their allies to raise education, awareness, and support for trans issues, as well as help create a social environment for transpeople and their allies to integrate with the rest of the LGBTQ community.

Q. When will you organize your first Pride in St. John's and what is your biggest accomplishment to date?

A. In terms of the greatest accomplishment by St. John's Pride Inc., well, this company is brand new, and is only in the planning stages at the moment. I am confident that this organization will accomplish many

great things in the weeks, months, and years ahead.

Q. Pride in St. John's has received mixed public reviews in the past years. Tell me the positive events and or concerns for Pride in St. John's past?

A. The LGBTQ community is extremely diverse, and it would be impossible to come up with an entire week of pride activities that will ensure that 100% of the people are 100% satisfied. From an organizational perspective, it is encouraging to see that Pride parade attendee numbers have consistently grown from year to year. Not only does there appear to be growth in terms of LGBTQ people feeling comfortable coming out publicly, but there appears to also be growth in terms of the amount of allies who want to be involved publicly... it is discouraging to look at the numbers... if there are 200,000 people in St. John's, then there are likely 20,000 who are LGBTQ... a very small percentage of these folks attended even the most recent Pride. The challenge ahead is to find a way to combat the indifferent and the indecisive and bring everyone together to make the LGBTQ community as strong as i

know it is capable of being.

Q. Why did your official St. John's Pride group legally register with the provincial government?

A. We have seen Pride entities in other cities (such as Corner Brook) benefit from doing so... complete with structured and formalized framework, policies and procedures. This ensures that there will always be a strong Pride... with transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness to all of the citizens and businesses of this city...

Q. What are your goals, objective and mandates with this new association?

A. The mandate, as stipulated in Articles of Incorporation can be viewed at www.stjohnspride.org.

Q. There is speculation a new "LGBTQA Association Newfoundland and Labrador Inc." may act as the umbrella for Pride and other LGBTQ organizations and events across our province. Is there any legitimacy to this?

A. It is public knowledge that a Name Reservation request for "LGBTQA Association Newfoundland Labrador Inc." has recently been published. Whether this name res-

Continued next page

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I Am What I Amherst Work Ahead Of Us

By Gerard Veldhoven
Another year is behind us and a new year will hopefully be filled with good things for the queer community. Last year was a great one for Amherst and its queer citizens. The Cumberland Pride Society increased membership by a few people and Pride week was a success once again. The society's annual Gay-la Holiday Celebration took place on December 4 at the Wandlyn Motor Inn in Amherst. Eighty-five folks from the queer and straight communities gathered for a

roast beef dinner and dance. Miss Roxy Dior entertained the crowd with her usual gusto, grace and humour. I celebrated my 70th birthday the same day and what better venue than with ones many friends at this holiday affair.

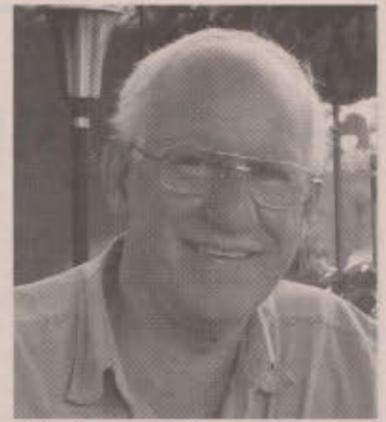
As we begin a new dawn in 2011 we must also keep in mind the work that remains ahead of us. During this past year, aside from all the celebrations and good times, we also remember the gay bashing in St. George, the rhetoric from the Pope,

the house burning in PEI, suicides, and more. All these horrific episodes must be dealt with in a positive manner. Each one of us is obliged to step up to the plate and continue to be vigilant. The Amherst area has been fortunate, to say the least. We don't have a Bill Mills to deal with and there have not been no gay bashing. That does not mean we are immune from such happenings. We are not necessarily safe because we live in a certain area of a province.

On December 1 a vigil was held at

the First Baptist Church in Amherst. Part of the AIDS quilt was displayed in the lobby of the church. Debbie Curry made an introduction, Sherri Briand read the purpose of the vigil, a prayer was offered by an 11 year-old boy and I read a poem by Michael Kehoe titled, "I Have HIV." It's always a moving experience.

I look forward to writing more columns for Wayves in 2011. Reporting from Amherst and Cumberland County is always lots of fun. From all the queer folk in Cumberland County,



a Happy New Year, filled with good fortune.

St. John's Pride, continued

ervation will turn into a corporate entity, remains to be seen. I have not personally been contacted by anybody claiming to represent said would-be organization....

Q. Will you hold a St. John's Pride next year?

A. Yes there's definitely going to be a Pride Week in 2011.

Q. What are your future plans?

A. Now that the foundation has been laid it is time to build the body. Corporate policies and procedures will need to be created, and operational programs and projects will need to be launched. Pride is supposed to be for everyone, and I want to do what I can to combat the indifferent and indecisive and help build a strong LGBTQA community here in this city. With all the above individuals and groups of people asking for "transparency" and "accountability" in an organization that is going to represent them... in a public role one should act in a manner befitting such an important position because after all they are representing the people of our community. For many people there are a lot of questions left unanswered as to why things were [being] operated as they were.

This year the largest turnout for St. John's Pride was reported to date and it has been suggested that upwards of 600 people were in attendance with a week-long series of events. As there will always be events of varying popularity in anything

created for the public, all in all there was a Pride in 2010 in St. John's and it was successful.

It seems that just after St. John's Pride in July there were immediate questions asked by several people and groups: "Why is St. John's Pride so politically charged? Where is the happiness?"

Enter St. John's Pride Inc., a group of advocates from the LGBTQA community who decided that because they were not getting many answers and that their voices were not being heard that they would formalize St. John's Pride, a provincially registered legal non-profit entity complete with a formal board of directors and by-laws.

There is something to be said for having a formal structure for such a large-scale community event. It's a business, after all, and no one can be faulted for wanting transparency and accountability especially if it is registered as a non-profit organization. What is also important to bear in mind is the simple fact that as a legal incorporation there also exists level of expected professionalism. People need to act responsibly, reasonably and inclusively. Julie Crouse added, "I'm excited that Jenn has taken the lead to develop this committee, and I hope that the new LGBTQA Association Newfoundland and Labrador Inc. will want to work with Jenn to

help organize and promote events like Pride throughout the province. I believe this is a new era for LGBTQA groups in NL and I'm excited to be living here and able to be a part of it."

It is important to note that the registered group (St. John's Pride) has made several requests for meetings to speak with and unite with the former Pride group to settle differences and

It seems that just after St. John's Pride in July there were immediate questions asked by several people and groups: "Why is St. John's Pride so politically charged? Where is the happiness?"

to bond the talents of everyone interested in supporting the new St. John's Pride, regardless of past issues. All requests have gone unanswered. The resounding question still is, "Why the silence?"

"Janice" commented, "I think this is disappointing because both organizations are promoting Pride and equality. It is great that she (Jenn) tried to reach out and cooperate because we have to work together as a

whole community towards the goal of having a fair and equal society to live and participate in. Those who believe in this vision need to be able to move past their differences and work together."

Julie Crouse added "I would hope that Jenn and Susanne are able to make that connection. All groups when first starting out can have growing pains and I would like to give both groups the benefit of the doubt that they will be able to work together to better the situation for the LGBTQA in Newfoundland and Labrador."

I, for one, see the new St. John's Pride to be energetic, tactful and munificent in their willingness to work with their pride group. I hope that said Pride crew comes on board so that we don't lose their individual talents, experience and dedication. Not one of us is, or can be, the sole

advocate for the LGBTQA community. After all, this is not about building an empire or social gratification, it's about advocating and promoting community. Working together will ensure the LGBTQA community's achievement of its goals, attaining greater levels of success and inclusion for all. We must act as outstanding ambassadors for our community.

Pride is a special creation, a time where we in the LGBTQA community should unite to generate a collective voice that speaks to the masses. While some of the voices in Pride may be political and some may represent sheer fun, the objective must be to come together as a unified body to celebrate our diversity, to let the world know that we are a contributing community, that we are quite simply PROUD.

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KIBITZ AND BITCH

Happy New Year Tom!

I've been thinking lately about the nature of reality versus fantasy and the elusive quality of truth. I know, it sounds a little heavy for a New Year's letter but let me explain. You see recently I had to get a criminal record check done for a job I was applying for. Well, you know me; I've never been involved in anything illicit—at least not since they decriminalized homosexuality—so I figured this will be a snap. Well, it turns out that someone with a criminal record has exactly the same birth date as I do, so I have to have my fingerprints taken to prove that I am not the criminal. In other words, I have to prove that I am innocent of any crime. So much for "innocent until proven guilty." Even though the government must have a million pieces of information on me—tax returns, driver's license, electoral lists, etc.—the only way that is accepted to show that I have a clear criminal record is to be fingerprinted.

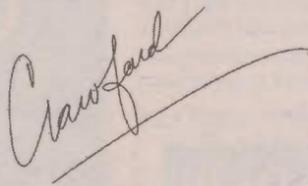
So, grumbling under my breath, I make my way to the local constabulary where the woman behind the window informs me that there is no one there at the moment who can take my fingerprints. So I come back the next day and I'm told that there is an officer who will fingerprint me but he is taking a statement at the moment. At this point, a woman that I know slightly comes into the waiting room. I realize that the police station is like the doctor's office in that the normal greeting of "Hi. What brings you here?" is not appropriate. Because of the inherent awkwardness of the situation and because I had gotten a quick glimpse of the semi-scowling officer who was on duty, I decided I would come back the following day. The third time was indeed the charm since I was greeted at the window between the waiting room and the official police space by a tall, handsome officer who enquired very politely how he could help me. This is where I got a bit stuck between the reality and fantasy part of my brain, Tom. Suddenly, all I could think of were inappropriate things to say. I was trying so hard not to make sexual puns on the words "mounted police" and "Mountie," that I stood there mute for what seemed like a quarter of an hour but was in reality probably only a few seconds. Then I squeaked out an incoherent account of why I needed my prints taken. Realizing that I was wagging my fingers at him like a ten-year-old, I made an effort to behave like an adult, cleared my throat to get rid of the squeak, and put down my hands.

A few minutes later, Mr. Tall, Blond and Built Just Like My Porn Fantasy Cop takes me into the rear (I said "into the rear" Tom, not "in the rear") ... uh, where was I? Oh yeah, into the rear of the building where a tiny little room housed the ink and paper etc. The actual fingerprinting was rather boring so I had plenty of time to run my eyes over the pulchritudinous specimen who was gently pressing my fingers onto the ink pad while I imagined pressing my fingers onto his firm body. Afterwards, there was a curiously intimate moment when we both ended up sharing the sink in the bathroom across the hall washing the ink off our hands. In my fantasy, I kicked the door shut and in one fluid movement unbuckled his regulation pants. The reality was much less exciting. We dried our hands, finished up the paper work and then he escorted me back to the main office. He gave me a brief smile and I fought the urge to make the phone sign with my hand and say, Call me. As I was paying the exorbitant processing fees I wondered how long I had been humming The Man Who Got Away.

I've always had a very rich fantasy life, Tom. As a small child I once felt a compelling need to dress up like a wizard. No, not for Hallowe'en or a dress up party, just a robe that I could put on and drift about in a wizardly fashion through the house and yard. My mother, who must have wondered, and not for the first time, about the motives of the elves who had dropped off this fey changeling into her care, obliged my wish by dyeing an old bedspread a lovely dark green and allowing me to use her liquid embroidery to create gold and silver astrological signs and other arcane sigils all over it. I must have looked rather odd, although I like to think maybe also rather adorable in a young child kind of way.

I continue to meander along the line between fantasy and truth I guess. Certain truths I think are important and must be declared. Truths like: "Mum, I'm gay." or "I love you." or "Nicola, no one on this planet looks good in a burnt orange dress." but fantasies and dreams can lead us to finding our truth.

Happy 2011, Tom.
Love ya!



SeaDogs: Insider Lessons Learned

By Glenn Blake

Last year money was tight, so I did what a lot of students do: I got a job. After taking away food and retail from the list of possible places to get a job, one that was left was the local bathhouse.

For those of you who may not know what a bathhouse is, it's basically a private club for men to go and relax... or whatever.

If you already know what I'm talking about, or if you have no desire to know what I'm talking about, feel free to skip this story. If, however, you're kind of curious or want a good laugh, read on.

The first thing that happens when you enter is you get a towel and a key to your room or locker. To ensure we get them back, we take your ID.

Tip 1: Don't leave with the room key. The staff will want to chase you down just as much as you will want them calling your house to get it back.

Bathhouse fashion dictates that the towels must be worn in the lounge, but once you're out back, anything goes. In the back area you can check out the different rooms. The first stop is most often the hot tub.

Tip 2: Hang out in the hot tub until you see something you like. The hot tub can be compared to your umbrella at the beach. Eventually you'll come back and meet up with people and swap stories about what you did all day.

A sign on the mirror reads: "No sex in the tub!" Please respect that. Have you ever seen a tub that two (or more) men have defiled? I have. Don't do it!

There's also a sauna. You can get your freak on in there, but don't piss on the rocks. If watersports are your thing, take it somewhere it won't evaporate instantaneously—maybe your place.

Plenty of customers tell me they just come to use the hot tub and sauna and to relax. I've never taken a stats class, but those numbers don't add up.

Tip 3: Don't bullshit the staff. We know what you're doing and we don't care. Just leave us out of it. For that

matter, if you see us out in public, don't try to hide. We see you and it looks pathetic.

If anonymous blowjobs are your thing, there's the glory hole downstairs. It's dark, so you can hide from your girlfriend. If discretion isn't your thing, throw caution to the wind and hang out in the sling. It's hung from the ceiling with chains, so everyone downstairs can hear when something is going on. There are portholes, so people who just want to watch the goings on without participating are able to do so. Perverts.

Don't bullshit the staff. We know what you're doing and we don't care.

Tip 4: A whistle means "Follow me." If all else fails, there's a dark room upstairs, so just hang out there and eventually something will come along. As long as you're safe, you can't regret what you can't see.

When your time has run out and you've had your fun, it's time to pack your stuff up and go. But there's something important to do before you leave.

Tip 5: Tip. It's not mandatory, but the people who work there deal with a lot of gross stuff so you can have fun. Some people make a mess when they're doing their thing (you know who you are). If someone is cleaning up after your ass, you should show them some love, too.

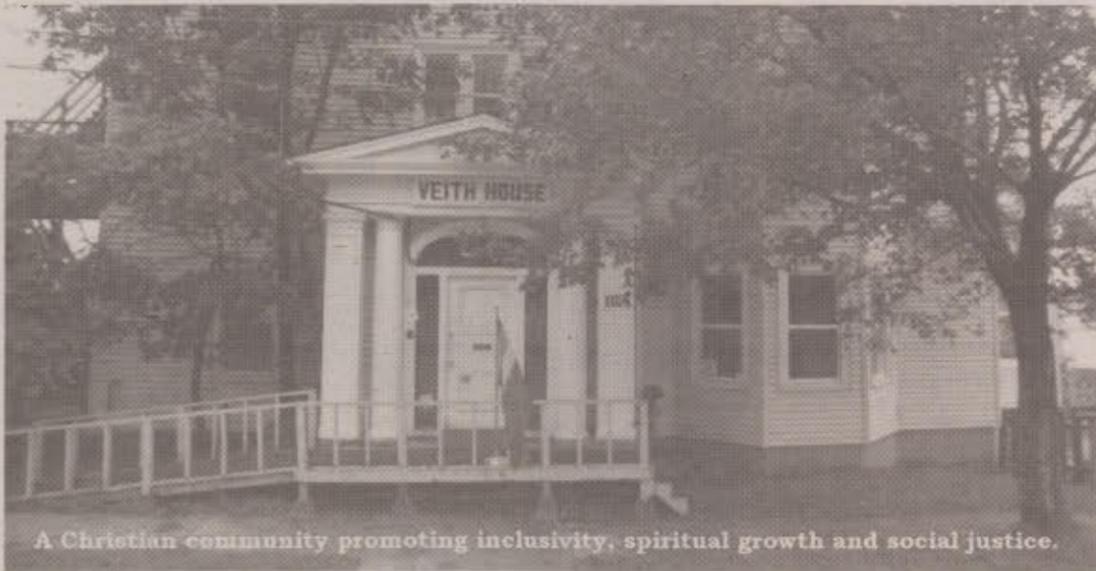
At this point, you may be asking: "Why is this bathhouse only available for men?" For the answer to this I'll direct you to Marina Adeshade's Economics of Sex and Love class. If you really can't wait that long, SeaDogs does open exclusively to women a few times a year. Play safe!

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Catherine Meade

Continued from Page 1



Meade and Martina Navratilova at the 2006 World Outgames in Montreal.

fun to walk around the sites, but she dreamt of actual competition. She did end up at the 1996 Olympics not as a competitor but as a minor official, sitting close enough to the track so as to almost reach out and touch it. "That will do, as the next best thing, to actually competing."

Catherine competed at the World Outgames in Montreal in 2006 and is presently volunteering with the 2011 Canada Winter Games Host Society. We talk about youth athleticism in Canada and I ask how things are for young gay, and lesbian athletes in today's world as opposed to 15 or 20 years ago. "We've seen such an increase in the acceptance of gays and lesbians in so many different spheres; it's been encouraging to see. That being said, sport is one of those areas that we've not seen this play out," she indicates. "One of the things I do, when I speak about homophobia in sport, I ask both kids and adults to name ten out lesbian professional athletes, and they never can." She can put money on it... sometimes they'll say Martina Navratilova, but she's retired, and that's only one name. She always keeps the money because they'll not get to ten. Then she asks them to name one out gay male professional athlete, and the money is still safe.

Catherine agrees that guidance of young athletes starts early, at the level of the coach, who has the rare opportunity to set standards for the team: "It's about being clear about what's accepted and what's not accepted, and what kind of environment you're going to create for the team." The team may be all about having fun, but negative comments about race, gender, ability or sexual orientation need to be recognized and the behaviour shut down when it happens. This is important not only for the kids who are different, but for all kids—for when the boundaries of acceptable behaviour are defined and maintained, this is when change occurs.

The importance of gay and lesbian-focused recreational sport leagues and large collective events such as the Gay Games and the Outgames cannot be understated. "The gay and lesbian sport movement speaks to the still-necessary forum for gays and lesbians to be themselves and participate in sport," she says. She does not to make distinctions between

later in life, like me), these kinds of leagues and events allow the freedom to participate in sport at whatever level they happen to be, from raw beginner to polished. Catherine recalls her trip to the Asia Pacific Outgames in Melbourne in 2008 and watching a volleyball game between two seemingly mismatched teams: a gay men's team where the players were buff and muscular and a lesbian women's team who were not so well-built. In the end, the women ended up slaughtering the men; however, the obvious point was the enjoyment and freedom of

the competition.

"When there's an opportunity to participate at whatever level when you have the freedom to be who you

are, it's extremely liberating," she emphasizes.

Catherine is already working on her next round of volunteer goals. She's applied to be a volunteer at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England, and this summer her next sporting destination is Germany for the FIFA Women's World Cup. She's especially encouraged about the London games, which is specifically looking for LGBT volunteers. She's also delighted that Canadian Olympian Mark Tewksbury has been named Chef de Mission for the Canadian

Olympic Team for the 2012 games: "I would hope that having an openly gay Chef de Mission would [encourage] current athletes [going into the 2012 games] to be themselves."

We agree the landscape is definitely improving for gays and lesbians in sport everywhere. Sometime in the next year I need to dig out my own 1976 Olympic medallion and in 2012 watch the televised coverage. With any luck CBC will catch a shot of Catherine Meade busily applying her passion, and hopefully she'll wave to her fans back home.



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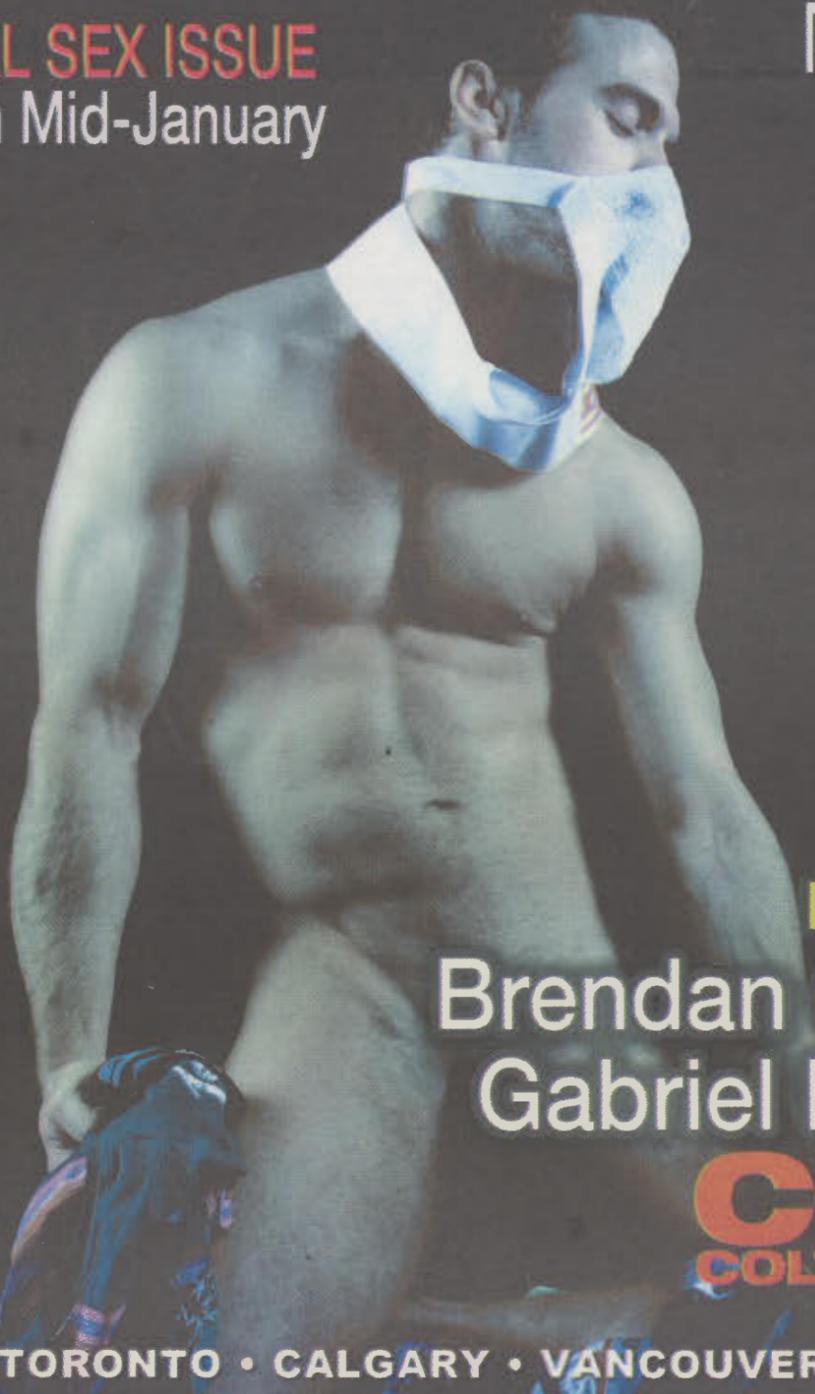
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Saturday February 6th, 2011

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Cocktails at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Coronation begins at 7:00 p.m.

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Chef's Corner



As we prepare to ring in the New Year, I wish to offer up a festive cocktail to celebrate the arrival of 2011. This drink has a tropical twist to it; which I thought might be nice at this time of year to remind us that yes, summer will return. All you will need is a cocktail shaker, some ice, large martini glasses, and a few friends to share the cheer. Happy New Year! Next month, we're back to winter comfort food with slow cooker beef short ribs. Num! Num!

Chef Darren is Chef de Cuisine and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax, N.S. Top 100 restaurants – "Where to Eat in Canada" Best Fine Dining – "The Coast" Member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs" world gastronomical society. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, or online at www.chives.ca.

Sparkling Yellow Bird

Ingredients (for two)

1.5 fl oz 100 proof vodka
1.5 fl oz coconut rum
1/2 oz Galiano liqueur

2 fl oz fresh squeezed orange juice
1 fl oz freshly juiced pineapple
squeeze of fresh lime

sparkling wine to finish
white sugar to rim the glasses
pomegranate for garnish

Method

1. Fill shaker with ice, pour the liquors over the ice, add fruit juices and shake vigorously. Let stand 1 – 2 minutes.
2. Wet the rim of the glass with lime juice then rim with sugar.
3. Pour the chilled drink into the glass, top with sparkling wine.
4. Float pomegranate seeds on top.

NSRAP Gala



Darlene Young Memorial Dinner

The Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner for the LGBT community, sponsored by Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church (SHMCC), was celebrated at St. Andrews Church in Halifax on December 4. As always it was a joyful

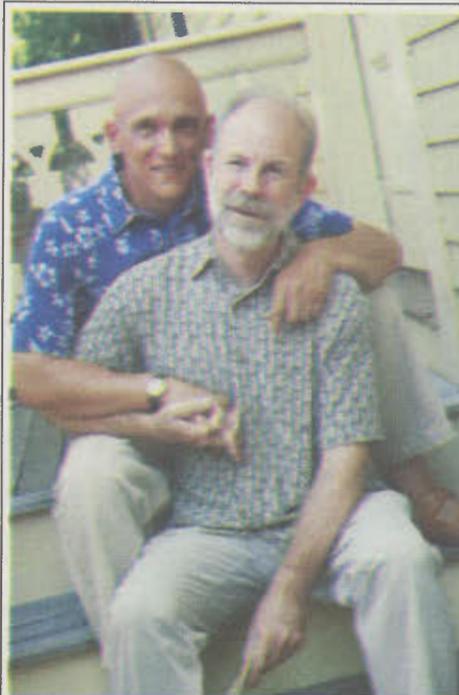
evening of superb food, fellowship and community spirit. One feature of this year's dinner was the presentation by SHMCC's new pastor Rev. Jennifer L. Paty of a special achievement award to Mz Vicki for outstanding service to the community.

The 2010 Community Heroes Awards Gala was a resounding success. The Halfamous were out in force, including Gavin Crawford, Rouge Fatale, and the Hon. Ramona Jennex, Minister of Service Nova Scotia. It was both a pleasure and a privilege to present Michelle Douglas to our guests, and our community proudly stood to honour Eric Smith, the 2010 Darlene Young Award winner. Singer/songwriter Wade Carroll, and our wonderful hostess, Candy Palmater, added their particular talents. The evening was sold out and raised record funds; thanks to our community's generosity, NSRAP can continue its work on behalf of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community in Nova Scotia.



Clockwise from top: Eric Smith and Michelle Douglas; Rouge Fatale

(centre) chats with newlyweds Candy Palmater and Denise Tompkins; Gavin Crawford and Kevin Kindred. Photos by Anita Martinez.



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Ramblings from the Sanctuary Garden

Despair, Joy, Bullshit & Gifts

By Bethana Sullivan

Sometimes I am full of bullshit. Sometimes I am empty of hope and once in awhile I am in a place of wisdom and clarity ready to see what is and what can be. Hopelessness seems to arise from the cellar of despair not the root cellar of hope. Bullshit walks hand in hand with despair, a friend who wants to comfort but doesn't really know how. When I walk down those steps I am not sure which I will find. It might be a news story of the death of a young gay person by bullying through suicide or the rape of women worldwide in war and peace that sends me down those stairs. Most recently it is the death of an old dear friend, a man of talent, integrity, and a person not easy to know on an intimate level.

As with a lot of my relationships this was one of intellectual excitement, spiritual talk, garden walks, humour, political analysis, exploring what it means to be a whole person, and the limits of friendship, interspersed with periods of disconnection.

It would be the limits of friend-

ship, of personhood, of lack of wholeness that would trigger the disconnection. This is directly linked to the search for what it means to be a whole person or in an alternative more current vernacular, "the pursuit of happiness." James Hillman gives us the words of the crazy Japanese monk, Ikkyu, in the following poem:

*You do this, you do that
You argue left, you argue right
You come down, you go up
This person says no, you say yes
Back and forth
You are happy
You are really happy*

Isn't this a wonderful sense of being whole or happy or human and it takes care of my cellar of despair and hope. Generally these days I am tired of the word gift—as in my dog is a gift, or cancer is a gift or losing my job is a gift. Give it up already! Every gift carries its own burden and it usually has nothing to do with the pain and despair of loss but rather expectations what should be. This being said it has been the death of

my friend that has cleared out the divide in the cellar.

As part of his death I was asked to help wash his body and prepare it for burial. In an early chapter of my life I had washed dead bodies as part of the work of being a nurse. I had done it with as much respect and care that I could but it was long ago. Most dead bodies have appeared before me, embalmed, dressed and made up to look like the person yet not quite hitting the mark, presentable though.

When I entered the room to wash his body it was a shock to see that it didn't look like him due to the proc-

ess of decomposition. The three of us began the washing, the shaving, and the dressing; the lifting of heavy limbs, the long strokes of the washcloth over cool skin, the putting on of comfortable slippers, the final touch of colourful cloth and this stranger became familiar again. Much of this experience is private, even that shared has a different meaning for each of us. Generally, for me, the everyday experience of bathing, in preparation for burial, became a cleansing of my own soul, of debt incurred and debt forgiven. The cellar of despair is the root cellar of hope, an ephemeral



moment that has become embodied not embalmed. And so I am happy, really happy.

May the joy and despair of the intense darkness of this time, the stillness of the sun, and the lengthening light be with you.



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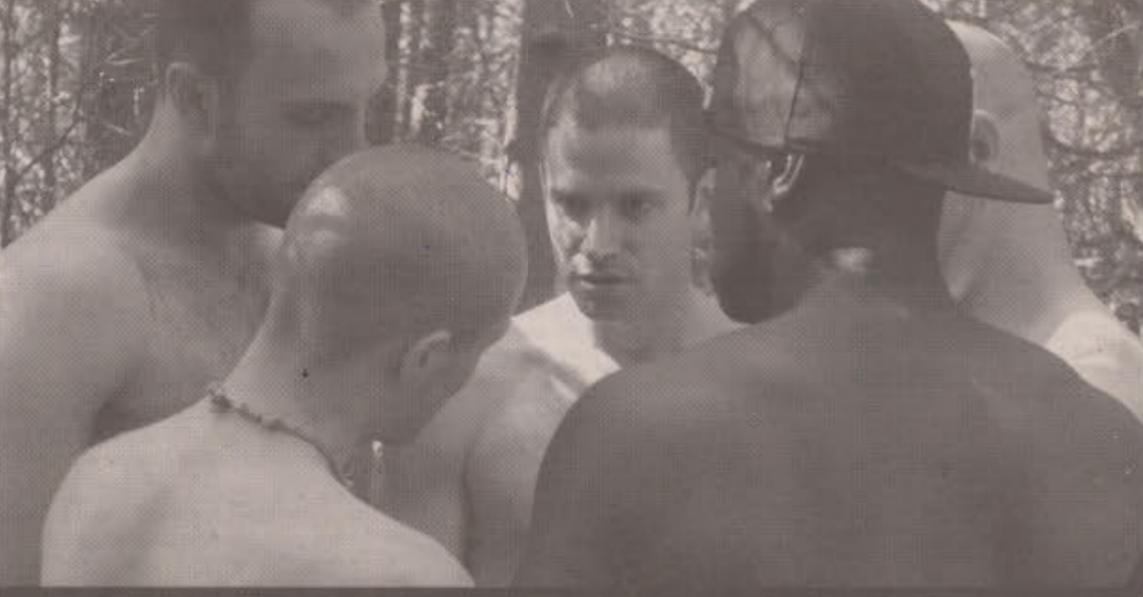

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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

Al-Anon/Alateen: for families & friends of problem drinkers. Does someone you know have a drinking problem? 466-7077 web: www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

AtlanticPoz: A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/

Egale Canada - Atlantic: (888) 204-7777 email: egale.canada@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. 1.800.565.4255 email: director@access-wave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: waydo7@hotmail.com

Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt): panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.quilt.ca (Call if interested in volunteering or making a panel) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

Narcotics Anonymous: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 1-800-205-8402 web: centralnovaarea.ca at Call the phone number or visit the web page for meeting times and places.

Project E: Presentation for youth, on gender expression, myth busters, proper terminology and other facts. web: www.freewebs.com/xproiecte/ at available via web page

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine! email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Deadline: the first Friday of every month; Editorial meeting: the Monday following that; layout the Sunday following that. Email us to be put on our notification list!)

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. Needle exchange located in office at 65 Brunswick Street Fred. E3B 1G5. 459-7518 email: jennifer@aidnsb.com web: www.aidnsb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca

Integrity: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: integrityfredericton@live.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46207976587, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

Spectrum: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unb.ca/clubs/spectrum (Meets Fridays during the school year. See webpage for location.)

UNB/STU Women's Collective: Women of all ages and orientations. , meets every

Monday at 5pm at the University Women's Centre at the SUB

Moncton

AIDS Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 506-859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at (506-859-4726 fax) 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

Moncton Line Dancing: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

PFLAG: Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnbpflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday - please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

River of Pride-rivière de fierte INC. of Greater Moncton: The organization meets regularly, to discuss upcoming events and activities, everyone is welcome to attend. check out time / location posted on the website. Media and general inquiries, including registration of volunteers and parade participation, can be made from the website or by email. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Education on how to create safe environments for GLBT-TQQ youth. 859-9616

Transgendered Peer Support Group : Open to all M2F, F2M, Andro and trans-supporters from across Atlantic Canada. email: be_tgmoncton@live.com

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton: Vise à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mount Allison's Queer-Straight Alliance, provides support & information for all Mt. A students, staff, and faculty through meetings, seminars, and social events. Everyone is welcome. email: catalyst@mta.ca web: www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/ (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info contact the president at catalyst@mta.ca or the Students' Administrative Council at sac@mta.ca.)

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to worship! 506-634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: To improve the quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the spread of HIV through education and a needle exchange program. Call the office for details. 652-2437 email: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aids-saintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St. Saint John New Brunswick

PFLAG: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Port City Rainbow Pride: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com (open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon.) at the office of Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth Street.

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

Woodstock

Woodstock GLBT Youth Advocate and Family Outreach: Books, movies, advice, directions, contacts, and support etc. for the family. 328-4868 email: richardb@nbnet.nb.ca

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

Frontrunners Newfoundland and Labrador: Running/walking club. 722-5791 or 753-9529 email: tonybrathwaite@belliant.net, jennifer.mcreath@yahoo.com (meeting times can be flexible to accommodate new runners.)

St. John's

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador: HIV/AIDS education and support for male/female/transgendered, all ages, Newfoundland and Labrador 579-8656 email: info@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) web: www.acnl.net at Tommy Sexton Centre 47 Janeway Place Pleasantville, across from the old Janeway Hospital AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers! 737-7619 email: lbgt@munsu.ca (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers.) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved!

LBGTQ Youth Group: A monthly gathering for queer, allied, questioning, and any interested youth. We offer social events such as bowling, movie nights, and coffee houses. Contact group coordinator Rob Sinnott at the number listed, email, or visit the web page for more info. 699-0509 email: lbgtq@nlsexualhealthcentre.org web: nlsexualhealthcentre.org

PFLAG Canada: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gammahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2497860774

Nova Scotia (902)

Hepatitis Outreach Society: Since 1999 the Hepatitis Outreach Society has been providing support, education and prevention information for those infected and affected by hepatitis in the province of Nova Scotia. 420-1767 in HRM or 1-800-521-0572 email: info@HepatitisOutreach.com web: www.HepatitisOutreach.com at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

SUNS GLB Constituency Committee: 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: tpineo@hotmail.com

Venus Envy Bursary Society: An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: www.venusenvy.ca/halifax

Amherst

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.csh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive. Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5143 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberlandpride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Monday (7-9 PM)

Antigonish

Rainbow Warriors: Rainbow Warriors is a youth-run support group for LGBTQ youth and allies in Antigonish. We hold social events such as picnics and game nights, have educational discussions around topics such as stereotypes/assumptions and transsexuality, and raise awareness in the surrounding community by participating in functions such as the Highland Games Parade and the Farmers' Market. While our group is youth-focused everyone is regardless of age, and gender identity or sexual orientation! Find our group on Facebook "Rainbow Warriors - AHAH!". email: antigonishrainbowwarriors@gmail.com, meets every Monday (3:00-5:00pm) at The Antigonish Women's Resource Centre, located in the Kirk Building at 219 Main Street, Suite 204 (above Tim Hortons).

X-Pride: social & support group at X. 867-5007 web: www.stfx.ca/people/xpride

Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NS-SexualHealth.ca web: www.theSHaC.org (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club: for 19 & older. 530-5986 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets 3rd Saturday (- dances - 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

Halifax

Affirm United: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Min-

istry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. June 13 to around September 12 we have one 10 am service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax: Bi Sexuels, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ (Every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7:30pm) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

DalOUT: DalOUT is the award-winning LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University. We pride ourselves on hosting fun, engaging and educational events for the entire Halifax community. email: dalout@dal.ca web: www.dalout.ca, meets 2nd Thursday, and 4th Thursday (from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.) at the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Ave., Room 321)

Frontrunners Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/index.php?club=Halifax, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 6:00 pm, Thu: 6:00pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH GROUP AT Q.E.H.: Jeanie Buffet, Counselor, at 421-6797

Get Out, Halifax!: Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond! web: www.getouthalifax.ca at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

Girl-ish Productions: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. email: girlishproductions@yahoo.ca web: www.girlish.ca

Hal-Gal Mailing List: Low-traffic Yahoo group providing events and information for queer women in the Halifax area. email: hal-gal@yahoogroups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/ (Join the list to keep in touch or post your events.)

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtsns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Integrity: Integrity is an organization of GLBT Anglicans and their friends, to encourage Christian gay men and lesbians in their spiritual life; to support the Church in its commitment to seek and serve Christ in all people; and to reach out to the GLBT community in Christian love and service. (902) 425-8383 web: www.integritycanada.org, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at All Saints Cathedral

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Koinonia is an ecumenical faith community offering open membership, equal marriage, practicing bible, church, religious and soul freedom, as well as open table communion. Koinonia offers Spiritual Care. Crisis support visitation and counselling for an honorarium. ALL are Welcome who celebrate God's Covenant to Love All of God's Creation. We are a registered charitable organization accepting donations from all who believe in the promotion of our all-inclusive community of faith. Contact Rev. Elaine @ 902-876-8771 for more information, or mail your contribution to 2410 St. Margaret's Bay Road Halifax N.S. B3T 1H1 with your name and address so we can issue your tax receipt. 876-8771 email: koinonia@eastlink.ca (we gather bi-weekly at 12:30pm - 1:30 followed by a time of fellowship) at Petrie's Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre, Maritime Centre - entrance on the corner of Barrington & Salter Streets

Manna For Health: A special needs referral food bank for those living with life threatening illness. 429-7670

Mount Pride: LGBTQ group at Mount Saint

Vincent University. email: mountpride@mounstudents.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 245) at Meetings in the Diversity Center in Rose-ria. Possible events that are being planned for the year include sexuality awareness, movies nights, social events, guest speakers, and many more. There are always LG-BTQ community events to be involved with and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: NSRAP, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, for 15 years the leading advocate for Nova Scotia's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. Fostering change in our communities through education, outreach, and political action. 444.3206 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrp.ca at TBA

Outlaw: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: chad.skinner@dal.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853 (Meetings vary. Please email for further information or check out our Facebook group.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St

Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week.

Pride Week: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca

prideHealth: prideHealth is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita our Clinical Nursing Specialist, number below. She is available free of charge, offers complete confidentiality, and can also give you support if you are experiencing homo or transphobia. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

Quakers: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, meets every Sunday at Library at Atlantic School of Theology, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

Queer Play: A Queer performing arts group in Halifax NS. email: queerplay@gmail.com

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBTQ community. Everyone is welcome!. 453-9249 email: safeharbourmcc@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

Team Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

The Masculine Spectrum: is a new support group for all transgender, transsexual, & trans men, FtMs, female assigned at birth genderqueers, two-spirited, intersexed, & questioning people 18 years of age or older, of all sexual orientations. No significant others, friends, family, or allies please. web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/genderspectrum/, meets 2nd Sunday at Just Us Cafe, 5896 Spring Garden Road

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick Street. 25 and under. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang

out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about what's new.

Trans Family Nova Scotia: We are the Parents, Partners, Family, Friends & Allies of Trans-Identified Individuals. supporting one another. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project (2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

Universalist Unitarian Church: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: UUCH.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30; see website for special events) at 5500 Inglis St

Kentville

Red Door: Youth Health & Support Centre. Information and services for sexual health. Ages 13 - 30. 679-1411 web: thereddoor.ca (Monday to Friday 2pm to 6pm) at 150 Park Street

Kingston

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 825-3197,363-2055 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

Lunenburg

Second Story Women's Centre: We offer a meeting space for women, support counseling, programs, and referrals. (902)640-3044 email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.secstory.com at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Middleton

PFLAG: Information and support for GLBT community and their friends and families. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html (Check online for meeting times and locations- or phone 825-0548)

New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: pppc@ns.sympatico.ca

Pictou County Women's Centre: Offering Individual Support Counselling and Crisis Intervention, Information and Referral, Advocacy and Accompaniment, Programs and Community Education. 755-4647 email: pcwc@womenscentre.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GBLT in Pictou County. web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

Valley Youth Project: Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: valleyyouthproject@gmail.com (6-8:30 most Wednesdays through May) at New Minas Civic Center, 9209 Commercial St. Ages 25 & under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Fun activities. Join us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT-T2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd Monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville:112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: We provide a welcoming environ-

ment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

Pride Cape Breton Society: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Tatamagouche

Tatamagouche Centre: We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: tatacent@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

Truro

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre: Resources, programs and services available for all women identified women. Advocacy and support - with outreach to rural areas. Also, see our Facebook group. Central Nova Women's Resource Centre http://cnwrc.weebly.com, cnwrc@eastlink.ca 535 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E8 (902) 895-4295. web: cnwrc.weebly.com

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive

Northern AIDS Connection Society: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacs@eastlink.ca web: northernaidconnectionsociety.ca (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact numbers in your area of northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

Rainbow Proud: Rainbow Proud supports the LGBT** community of Truro and surrounding areas. Our small group of volunteers work hard to put events together for everyone's enjoyment. Any feedback will be considered and can be sent to our email address. We hope you continue to come celebrate our community together. email: rainbowproud@hotmail.com web: rainbowproudnovascotia.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

RESPECT: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment): Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyong@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGB-T2IQQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre: 585-2140 email: womens.centre@acadiau.ca (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Yarmouth

South West Nova Pride: GLBT of any age are invited, we meet as a social gathering and peer support group on the 2nd last Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM in the Beacon United Church parlour 25 Beacon St. Yarmouth. We are not church affiliated. 645-2914 email: jackanddan@eastlink.ca web: SWNovaPride.com

Prince Edward Island (902)

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahoo-groups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pe/ at All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list. GLBT Youth group: Safe Space Drop-Ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 (E-mail us for further details.) at 144 Prince St.



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The Last Word Idol Worship

By Randall Perry

January is upon us and once again it's Idol season. The tenth season of American Idol is just around the corner. The quest is on once again to find America's most popular karaoke singers/drama queens/microphone-wielding God-thanking attention whores.

I'm looking forward to the competition this year. With the departure of his V-neckedness, Simon Cowell, it's time to shake out the moths and change things up a bit. New judges, rumoured Big Brother-type segments where the contestants are all lumped together in a house full of hidden cameras, online voting, the whole shit, I can't wait to see whether J-Lo channels the babbling Paula or the coherent Paula, and I understand

they reanimated Steven Tyler with some new threads and a fresh round of Botox.

As much as Idol is due for a change, the core will stay the same. The good contestants will still be good and the bad ones will continue with their vocal runs and melismatic flourishes instead of actually hitting the correct notes. Let's not forget, too, the meltdowns of the young and rejected. In December, as I'm writing this, the teaser commercials have just begun to air, and the auditions look rife with new, improved nutters this year.

For the first few years I followed the entire competition, from auditions to crowning. After a few years, when the (now defunct) Ca-

nadian version was introduced, I just watched the auditions and the first elimination rounds. When the actual live competition started I tuned out, mostly because the contestants who made it to this point tend to fit the formula of pre-packaged Next! Great! New! Thing! kind of musical dreck that dominates the charts.

Lambert's talent was light years ahead of what the program was ready for and he was queer as a bank full of three dollar bills.

Sometimes certain performers would stand out more than others. Mostly, though, it was just the same old, same old.

When season eight premiered and

the eyeliner-y Adam Lambert auditioned, complete with painted nails, over-the-top costumes and a voice that sounded like it was coming from the love child of Freddy Mercury and Elvis Presley and a million tuning forks I started watching the whole thing again. Lambert's talent was light years ahead of what the program was

ready for and he was queer as a bank full of three dollar bills.

Not that he was the first gay on the show, not by a long shot. The difference here was that Lambert's big, out queerness was his gimmick and his confidence.

He revelled in it, strutting around onstage, locking his eyes with the camera, daring America to goddamn well vote for him, growling and wailing from the depths of his crotch while naughty boys and girls around the country creamed their jeans and melted cell-phone towers with their ecstatic texting.

But even though he made it through to the very end, Lambert's super-freak was defeated by Kris Allen, the nice Christian missionary boy from Arkansas, who admittedly could sing—let's not forget it was a singing competition—but didn't come close to Lambert's stage presence or burning ring of fiery balls. Many gay talking heads were disappointed and passed judgement—or delighted and passed judgement—but in the end Lambert got the better deal. He might not have won the votes of the Jesus-loving Uggs-and-fabric-scrap-wearing 'tween set, but he walked off the Idol stage right into his own way



to rock, putting out a fabulous album, complete with 80s airbrushed cover art (tragic!), courting all sorts of controversy with his crotch-grinding and deep-kissing guitar playing boys and general fuck-offery when the cameras were looking (fabulous!).

Such a bad boy, that Adam, offending and titillating the thou-shalt-not set.

This season I'm thinking, okay, more queer. Please, sir, can I have some more gay? And not the inoffensive, positive role model GLAAD-approved gays who stay home and fuck in their beds, lights out. Bring on the singing stereotypes: a screaming skel-etwink with a high register that shatters windows; a smashed-up bulldyke who swallowed Carole Pope's voice box along with her tongue. Watch the ratings, Neilson people.

Or maybe... and how revolutionary would this be?... a gay Marine crooning a love song to the man of his dreams. That that, Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Mothers everywhere would offer up their sons in marriage.

Is Idol ready for another iteration of Adam Lambert? I certainly hope so. Thursday nights this January I plan to find out. This one might even win, and that would be so fucking cool.

randall@wayves.ca

It Gets Better Rally



Over 100 people attended the It Gets Better rally at the Grand Parade in Halifax on October 20. The rally was a response to the recent spate of teen suicides due to bullying homo/transphobic or just because someone is different.

"I was called gay names and I didn't even know what it meant to be gay. I just knew I was different," said Tanya Bloomfield, one of the organizers of the Halifax rally. Photo by Daniel MacKay.

Letter

Dear Wayves Readers:

I am just sending a note to let everyone know that we were very pleased with the turnout at the recent dance. It was great to see everyone (ladies and gents) all together and having a great time. It is times like these that it makes doing the dances all worthwhile. I know it has been touch and go for a bit and we did not know if we were going to have another. So hopefully with everyone's support in the future we can continue having the dances. The dances are a great thing whether it is to dance or just to come and socialize with people you have not seen for awhile. For me, it is about seeing everyone, men and women, pulling together to support a great thing.

Thanks
South Shore Pride
Jeff/Eric and the Pride Group

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